

LOWER CHICHESTER, PA—On Saturday, April 18, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) threw out the first pitch of the season of the Mickey Vernon Little League in Lower Chichester, Pa. The Congressman spoke at the conclusion of the opening parade and presented a citation that was read in the Congressional Record in honor of legendary ballplayer and Marcus Hook native, Mickey Vernon, who passed away in September.

“James Barton ‘Mickey’ Vernon, a native of Marcus Hook, was one of the finest athletes and men ever to call the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania home,” the Congressman said. “He passed away on September 24th, 2008, having lived a life of great success and purpose. Long before he became an exceptional professional baseball player, Mickey’s character and work ethic were shaped by his parents Clarence and Katherine Morris Vernon, his sister Edith, and the good people of Marcus Hook, the Cornerstone of Pennsylvania. In addition, he benefited from the dedicated faculty and coaches of Eddystone High School and Villanova University.”

“Ranked among the best players of baseball’s Golden Era, Mickey was twice the American League’s batting champ,” the Congressman continued. “Over a career that included time with the Washington Senators, Cleveland Indians, Boston Red Sox, Milwaukee Braves and Pittsburgh Pirates, he played in two thousand four hundred and nine Major League games. In each he played with skill, determination and a complete commitment to his team and teammates. More important than his skills on the diamond, Mickey Vernon stands apart for his modesty and unfailing service to our nation and his community. I am especially proud to call him ‘Shipmate’. Mickey served in the U.S. Navy during WWII in the brutally hot and dangerous South Pacific. Following that conflict he continued his brilliant career and with his loving wife, Anne, raised a wonderful daughter, Gay.”

A chartered member of Little League International since 1955, Mickey Vernon Little League is located in Lower Chichester at Hewes Avenue Park and serves the communities of Linwood, Marcus Hook, Boothwyn, Trainer, and parts of Aston and Bethel Townships.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on*

*Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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